

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 L-01 CPR-01 A-01

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INRE-00 SSO-00 /041 W

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O P 101122Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7672

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

USMISSION USBERLIN PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 04022

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, GE, CGEN, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH/GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: (A) PARIS 00771, (B) BERLIN 5211

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AS FRENCH INDICATED TO US (AND OTHERS) ABOUT A MONTH AGO THEY MAY WELL AGREE TO SOMETHING CLOSE TO NATIONALITY FORMULA REPORTED REFTEL A IN CURRENT NEGOTIATING ROUND WITH GDR IN PARIS. HOWEVER QUAI CONTINUES TO DISCLAIM IT "THOUGHT UP" THIS FORMULA AND INSISTS THAT IT WILL MAKE NO MOVES THIS ISSUE UNLESS GDR REPS TAKE INITIATIVE IN PUTTING FORWARD FORMULA FRENCH COULD ACCEPT. IF THEY DO, QUAI AGAIN PROMISES TO BE IN TOUCH BEFORE FINAL DECISIONS ARE TAKEN. ON
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ASSUMPTION IT KEEPS ITS PROMISE (WHICH WE OF COURSE

CANNOT GUARANTEE), EMBASSY REITERATES REQUEST FOR URGENT GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN VIEW OF CONCERNS EXPRESSED REFTEL B, WE ASKED QUAI FEB. 9 TO BRING US UP TO DATE ON STATE OF PLAY ON NATIONALITY ISSUE, THIS BEING FIRST DAY OF CURRENT ROUND OF FRENCH GDR CONSULAR NEGOTIATIONS. IN PLAISANT'S ABSENCE AT NEGOTIATIONS MADAME TIMSIT PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

3. TIMSIT AGAIN ASSURED US THAT FRENCH HAD NOT AND WOULD NOT PRESENT ANY NEW FORMULA ON NATIONALITY QUESTION, AT LEAST AS FAR AS THIS ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS IS CONCERNED. IF GDR MADE ANY CONSTRUCTIVE NEW SUGGESTIONS, FRENCH WOULD OF COURSE BE WILLING, EVEN ANXIOUS TO CONSIDER THEM, SINCE GOF DID DESIRE TO FINISH THESE NEGOTIATIONS. TIMSIT RECALLED THAT PLAISANT HAD TOLD US AS MUCH IN OUR LAST CONVERSATION JAN. 9 IN WHICH HE INDICATED (PARA 4 REFTEL A) THAT FRENCH PROBABLY COULD REPEAT COULD ACCEPT FORMULA ALLUDED TO DURING GDR FONMIN FISCHER'S VISIT. SINCE THEN, TIMSIT SAID, QUAI'S LEGAL TECHNICIANS HAD FURTHER REFINED AND QUALIFIED WHAT FRENCH MIGHT AGREE TO ACCEPT. SO FAR GDR DEL HAD MADE NO NEW MOVES THIS ISSUE. IF IT DID TIMSIT, AS HAD PLAISANT (PARA 6 REFTEL A), OFFERED TO LET US KNOW PROMPTLY.

4. AS REGARDS ISSUE OF WHO-SAID-WHAT-FIRST-TO-WHOM, A POINT WE RAISED WITHOUT ALLUDING IN ANY WAY TO SOURCES, TIMSIT PRODUCED RECORD OF FISCHER-SAUVAGNARGUES PLENARY MEETING, NOTING THAT THERE HAD OF COURSE ALSO BEEN PURELY PRIVATE EXCHANGES BETWEEN TWO MINISTERS ABOUT WHICH NEITHER SHE NOR PLAISANT WERE INFORMED.

5. EXTRACTS OF RECORD OF PLENARY READ TO US TEND TO CONFIRM ACCOUNT REFTEL A, INCLUDING PARA THREE. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED KEY POINTS WERE TO EXTENT INTERRELATED, AS FAR WE CAN JUDGE FROM OBSERVING BUT NOT READING THIS RECORD, BEING SEPARATED BY OTHER REMARKS WE WERE NOT SHOWN. EVEN SO GIST SEEMS TO BE THAT AFTER SAUVAGNARGUES HAD REFUSED ANY DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY FISCHER SAID
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IT WAS NOT A MATTER OF FORMAL DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY, BUT QUESTION OF RECOGNIZING CITIZENSHIP WHICH CORRESPONDS TO THAT INDICATED ON PASSPORT PRESENTED. SAUVAGNARGUES THEN INDICATED THAT FRENCH WOULD NOT BE UNREASONABLE, WOULD BE PRAGMATIC AND COULD PROBABLY AGREE TO A FORMULA REFERRING TO PERSONS WHO PRESENT A GDR PASSPORT. FISCHER IS THEN QUOTED AS SAYING EXPERTS SHOULD NOTE THIS POINT.

6. TIMSIT ADDED THAT NEITHER THEN NOR LATER HAD THIS RATHER LOOSE EXCHANGE WHICH "EMERGED" FROM LONG, FRIENDLY DISCUSSION BETWEEN FISCHER AND SAUVAGNARGUES (PARA 2, REF A) BEEN ELABORATED INTO A MORE SPECIFIC FORMULA BY THE TWO SIDES. SHE REITERATED THAT SHE COULD NOT SPEAK

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FOR THE PURELY PRIVATE MEETINGS, BUT THOUGHT THE SAME HELD TRUE.

7. TIMSIT THEN NOTED, AT HER INITIATIVE, THAT BONN (I.E., VAN WELL) WHICH WAS ONLY COUNTRY OTHER THAN U.S. INFORMED IN DETAIL, WAS CURRENTLY "QUITE CONCERNED" THAT FRENCH MAY HAVE "COOKED UP" A DEAL AND HAD BEEN SPREADING THIS AROUND. SHE REITERATED FRENCH WERE INDEED ANXIOUS TO

SETTLE NATIONALITY ISSUE. HOWEVER SHE INSISTED THAT, WHILE ONE CAN ARGUE ABOUT MEMCONS OF MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, THE MAIN POINT WAS THAT FRENCH WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRUDENT. SHE THOUGHT FRG'S CONCERNS WERE THEREFORE PREMATURE.

8. ON LEAVING EMBOFF AGAIN MADE POINTS, ALSO REPORTED
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PARA 6 REFTEL A, EXPRESSING US INTEREST IN HAVING SOME INFORMAL OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON ANY NATIONALITY FORMULA UNDER SERIOUS DISCUSSION WITH GDR BEFORE IT IS FINALLY ADOPTED, SINCE MATTER AFFECTS OUR NEGOTIATIONS QUITE DIRECTLY. TMSIT AGREED TO PHONE IF SUCH SITUATION AROSE IN NEXT TWO DAYS.

9. COMMENT: WE APPRECIATE IMPORTANCE EMBASSY BERLIN ATTACHES TO HAVING PRECISE INFORMATION AS TO WHO MADE FIRST MOVE IN CURRENT FRENCH-GDR NATIONALITY GAME. TMSIT CONVERSATION ADDS MORE NUANCES TO STORY GIVEN US BY PLAISANT, PARTICULARLY IN REPEATED REFERENCES TO PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN FISCHER AND SAUVAGNARGUES. EVEN SO IT DOES NOT CLEARLY CONFIRM REPORTS CITED REF B.

10. WHAT IS AND HAS BEEN CLEAR IS THAT SAUVAGNARGUES WILL BE GLAD TO SEIZE ON A REASONABLE FORMULA TO SETTLE NATIONALITY QUESTION AND TO CONCLUDE GDR CONSULAR AGREEMENT, PERHAPS IN NEXT FEW DAYS. REGARDLESS HOW PHRASE "PERSONS WHO PRESENT GDR PASSPORT" ORIGINATED (AND ONE CANNOT CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT PLAISANT MAY HAVE BEEN APPLYING A LITTLE WHITEWASH IN DISCUSSING ULTIMATE PATERNITY THIS PHRASE) ISSUE FACING U.S. AND FRG SINCE JANUARY 9 IS EXTENT TO WHICH INCLUSION SUCH FORMULA IN FRANCE'S CONSULAR AGREEMENT WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS.

11. FOR DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY BERLIN: SINCE FRENCH MAY WELL SEEK OUR REACTION TO SOMETHING CLOSE TO ABOVE FORMULA BEFORE FEBRUARY 12, EMBASSY REITERATES REQUEST FOR URGENT GUIDANCE (PARA 7 REF A) AS TO EXTENT SUCH FORMULA WOULD POSE PROBLEMS FOR OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR.
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